

[Mr. Speaker] [20th November 1963]

this will be followed in future and a good precedent set up. After the explanation of the Leader of the Opposition, there is nothing left for me to give a ruling.

**திரு. மீ. கலியாணசுந்தரம் :** ஸ்பீக்கர்ஸ் ரூலிங்கை 'அப்ரி வியேட்' பண்ணலாமா, பண்ணக்கூடாதா?

**கனம் சபாநாயகர் :** சும்மாயிருந்தால் போதும்.

### III.—CALLING ATTENTION TO ARREARS OF LAND REVENUE IN THE SIVAGANGA ZAMIN AREA

\* **திரு. செ. மாதவன் :** கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, இராமநாதபுரம் மாவட்டம் சிவகங்கை ஜமீன் பிராந்தியத்தை அரசாங்கம் எடுத்துக் கொண்டு அதற்குப் பின் செட்டில்மெண்டு செய்து நிலத்தின் தரத்தை நிர்ணயித்த காலம் வரை இந்த இடையிட்ட பசலிகளில் விவசாயிகளிடமிருந்து உயர்தர ரயத்துவாரி வரி விகிதத்தில் விதித்ததினால் வரிபாக்கி அதிகமாகச் சேர்ந்துக்கொண்டு வந்தது. செட்டில்மெண்டுபடி நிலவரி குறைந்துவிட்டது. அதிகபட்சம் வரி போட்டதினால் ஏற்பட்ட பாக்கிகளை விவசாயிகள் கொடுக்க முடியாமல் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். இதை நிவர்த்திக்க செட்டில்மெண்டில் நிர்ணயிக்கப்பட்ட நிலவரியையே அரசாங்கம் அந்த கிராமங்களை எடுத்துக்கொண்ட தேதியிலிருந்து கிராம மக்களிடம் வசூலிக்க ஏற்பாடு செய்ய வேண்டும் என்னும் அவசரப் பொது முக்கியத்துவம் வாய்ந்த விஷயத்தை கனம் பொதுப்பணித்துறை அமைச்சர் அவர்களின் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவருகிறேன்.

**THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, before 1947, the rates of rent prevailing in estate areas in the Madras State were abnormally high when compared to the rates of assessment prevailing in the adjoining ryotwari areas. As a preliminary measure to the abolition of the Zamindari system, the Government decided to scale down the high rates of rent in the estate areas approximately to the level of those prevailing in the adjoining ryotwari areas. With a view to achieve this object on a rough and ready method, the Government enacted the Madras Estates Land (Reduction of Rent) Act, 1947. Under this Act, the rents levied by the landholder were scaled down to bring them in line with the Government assessment collected in the adjoining ryotwari villages. The rates of reduced rent thus determined were not based on any detailed classification of soils and irrigation sources. In cases where rents were payable in grain, the reduced rent was also specified in terms of grain. But, where the commuted cash value of the reduced rate of grain rent exceeded the highest ryotwari assessment payable on lands of the same class in the district, the latter (i.e. the highest ryotwari rate of assessment of the district) was fixed as reduced rent payable. Subsequently, the Government considered that even this highest rate of assessment of the district was a hardship. They, therefore, decided that in such cases, the highest rate of assessment on ryotwari lands of the same description in the taluk in which the land in question was situated should

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be fixed as the reduced rate of rent. Thus, all efforts were made to see that the ryots in the estate areas paid assessment approximately at the level prevailing in the adjoining areas. But, these rates are subject to revision at the time of settlement during which the rates are fixed on a scientific basis taking into consideration soil classification and nature of irrigation sources. Sometimes, the rates fixed under the Rent Reduction Act may be higher than the settlement rates and in some cases they may be even lower. Under the Scheme of the Madras Estates Abolition Act, after the estates are taken over and till settlement is introduced, the land revenue collectable is at the reduced rates fixed under the Rent Reduction Act.

The hon. Member has made the following assertion :—

(1) In the whole of the Sivaganga zamin area, the land revenue payable under section 23 of the Estates Abolition Act was fixed at the highest ryotwari rate;

(2) as a result of this, large arrears of land revenue under section 23 have accumulated and the ryots are not able to pay them; and

(3) the rates of land revenue fixed at settlement and collected from the fasli in which settlement was introduced, are much lower than the section 23 assessment.

He has also requested that the land revenue should be collected at the settlement rates with effect from the notified date.

The Rent Reduction Act was introduced in Sivaganga Zamin-dari with effect from fasli 1357 (1947-48). This estate was taken over under the Estates Abolition Act on 7—9—1949. Before this estate was taken over, there were both cash and grain rents prevailing in this area. Under the provisions of the Rent Reduction Act, the rates of rent were scaled down approximately to the level of the assessments prevailing in the adjoining ryotwari areas. In cases, where grain rent was prevailing, the reduced rates were also fixed in terms of grain. But, where the commuted cash value of the reduced grain rent exceeded the highest rate of the ryotwari assessment payable on similar lands in the *district*, the highest ryotwari rate of the district was fixed as reduced rent. As already stated by me earlier, even this highest ryotwari rate of the *district* was further scaled down to the highest ryotwari rate of the *taluk* in which the lands were situated. Thus, it will be observed that, in grain rent cases, the rates were reduced thrice, i.e., firstly proportionate fraction, secondly the highest ryotwari rate of the *district*, and thirdly to the highest ryotwari rate of the *taluk*. Only these rates were collected as land revenue under section 23 of the Madras Estates Abolition Act till settlement was introduced on a scientific basis.

Settlement was introduced in various portions of the Sivaganga estate in three stages, i.e., in fasli 1367 in Aruppukottai, Paramakudi and Sivaganga taluks and in fasli 1368 in Tiruvadanai taluk



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and in fasli 1368-69 in Tirupattur taluk. Prior to rent reduction, the demand in Sivaganga estate was 39.40 lakhs. After rent reduction, the demand was only 18.31 lakhs. There was thus a decrease of 54 per cent as a result of rent reduction. After settlement was introduced, the demand in this area was only 13.18 lakhs. It will be seen that the net demand was again decreased consequent on introduction of settlement. When compared to the rates prevailing before the estate was taken over, the rates fixed under Rent Reduction Act were certainly more favourable to the ryots. At the settlement, these rates have been further reduced. It is not everywhere that the settlement rates are lower than the section 23 rates. There are many areas where they are higher. The Government do not propose to collect higher rates fixed at the settlement in such cases also.

If the settlement rates are to be collected with retrospective effect from the notified date, it would cause a great deal of administrative difficulty in revising the collection accounts, apart from the inconvenience caused to the ryots who were paying at lower rates before settlement. Such a revision is, therefore, uncalled for.

#### IV.—GOVERNMENT MOTION

##### (1) CHANGE IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

**THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister for Local Administration has to move a Bill under Item III but he has to participate in a conference of Municipal Chairmen. Therefore, I move—

‘That Item III (4)—The Madras Municipal Authorities (Term of Office and Election of Councillors) Bill, 1963, under ‘Government Bills’ in to-day’s Agenda be taken up immediately before Item II.’

**MR. SPEAKER:** The question is—

‘That Item III (4)—The Madras Municipal Authorities (Term of Office and Election of Councillors) Bill, 1963, under ‘Government Bills’ in to-day’s Agenda be taken up immediately before Item II.’

The motion was put and carried.

**திரு. மீ. கலியாணசுந்தரம்:** இந்த மாதிரி திடீரென்று அஜென்டாவை மாற்றும்பொழுது, கட்சித் தலைவர்களுயாவது கலந்துகொண்டு செய்திருந்தால் நன்றாக இருக்கும். இன்று அர்ப்பன் லாண்டு டாக்ஸ் மசோதாவின் மீது விவாதம் நடைபெறும் என்று எதிர்பார்த்துத்தான் நாங்கள் எல்லோரும் வந்திருக்கிறோம். நேற்று முந்தைய நாள் பிசினஸ் அட்வைசரி கமிட்டிக் கூட்டம் நடைபெற்றது. அஜெண்டாவிற்குத் தகுந்தபடி நாங்கள் தயார் செய்து கொண்டு வரவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. அர்ப்பன் லாண்டு டாக்ஸ் மசோதாவிற்குப் பிறகு பெட்டர்மெண்ட் லெவி மசோதா